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FLOOR DEBATE

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you is what needs to be done. It is important, my friends, it is important that we recognize that there are constitutionally three branches of government. And to create a situation in which longtime employees of an agency of state government have the authority to limit the discretion of the judiciary branch is not a good idea. I have had several conversations here with members of the bar who feel I'm wrong. I look back in time and I do not believe I'm wrong; I believe that while the intent of those who are currently the appointed directors of the Department of Health and Human Services are in fact good and noble and right and true and just in trying to get the best, the best services for juveniles for the dollars that are available, what LB 598 provides...proposes to do is in fact wrong because it does cripple the power of the judiciary, make...it limits what county courts and juvenile courts can select from in caring for juveniles who are wards of the state in the system. And we ought not do that. We have an appeals process in place that, if it's not being used often enough, maybe that's a problem. But if the intent of this bill is to hobble the judiciary, to see that a juvenile court judge in Sarpy County or Lancaster County or wherever they exist cannot issue an order within the realm, the freedom expressed of that branch of government...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ....then we're doing something wrong. And I do not fault anyone for this, but this is in fact a dream of any agency of government is to have the ability to direct decisions coming from any court. And I do not believe we should be party to that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. (Visitors introduced.) Further debate on the Thompson amendment? Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. On the Chinn Planning...the Master Plan recommendations, recommendation 8 says that expand the Office of Juvenile Service Administrative Management and oversight capability. The Office of Juvenile Service does not have the appropriate infrastructure to effectively administer, manage and